

## ***2.0 COMPARISONS OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND BEST PRACTICES IN SELECTED STATES***

Chapter 2 reviews many aspects of state education governance and administration in five states, for the purpose of comparison with the North Carolina system. The five states are California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Kentucky. This chapter includes seven major sections:

- 2.1 Governance Structures
- 2.2 Scope of State Education Department Authority and Responsibilities
- 2.3 Staffing
- 2.4 Total Funding and State General Funding
- 2.5 Outputs
- 2.6 Regional Delivery Systems
- 2.7 Best Practices

The comparison states represent the Southwestern, Midwestern, and Western geographic areas of the United States. Like North Carolina, their school populations reflect significant percentages of poverty and/or minority students and students identified for special education services.

Demographic information for the selected states is displayed in **Exhibit 2-1**.

**Exhibit 2-1**  
**Comparative Demographics for North Carolina and Benchmark States**  
**2007 Statistics**

<b>State</b>	<b>Total Students Elementary/ Secondary</b>	<b>Low Income</b>	<b>Minority</b>	<b>Special Education</b>
North Carolina	1,416,436	42.6%	33.4%	13.6%
California	6,437,202	48.5%	69%	10.7%
Florida	2,675,024	45.8%	51.4%	14.9%
Georgia	1,598,461	49.8%	51.8%	12.4%
Illinois	2,111,706	37.2%	43.6%	15.3%
Kentucky	679,878	52.4%	13.7%	16.0%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>, 2008.

In addition to comparing governance and administration elements across the states, this chapter includes a discussion of best practices being used in the benchmarking states as well as several other state education systems.

